

Serial No.: 10/052,634
Group Art Unit: 3723
Examiner: Robert C. WATSON

REMARKS

In the First Office Action (dated July 10, 2003), claims 4, 6 and 11-14 were withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. In response (on October 9, 2003), Applicant amended claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-10. In the Final Office Action (dated October 22, 2003), the Examiner allowed claims 1, 3-10 and 13. Thereafter Applicant filed a response (on February 3, 2004) in which amendments for claims 4, 6 and 11-14 were presented, which were not entered by the Examiner per the Advisory Action dated February 17, 2004.

In response to the Advisory Action, Applicant presents herewith claims 4, 6 and 13 in their original form which were indicated in the Office Action of October 22, 2003, as being allowed by the Examiner. Non-allowed dependent claims 11, 12 and 14 are cancelled.

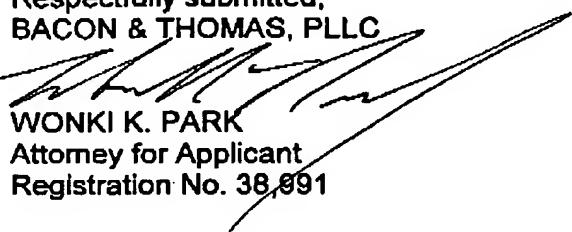
Only allowed claims 1, 3-10 and 13 (in the exact form allowed by the Examiner in the Office Action dated October 22, 2004) remain pending upon entry of the amendments to the claims above.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephonic conference of February 20, 2004 and the follow-up of April 20, 2004 with Applicant's Attorney, in which the Examiner indicated that allowed claims 1, 3-10 and 13 would be allowed if claims 4, 6 and 13 are presented in their original, allowed form and the non-allowed claims canceled. Hence claims 1, 3-10 and 13 are now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests an early Notice of Allowance with regard to the pending claims.

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In the event there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application which can be resolved by a telephone call or facsimile communication to Applicant's Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile at the numbers provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC


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